

Global attack expands Air Force reach

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — From its early days as a separate service, the Air Force has continually stretched its combat arms as fast as its aircraft can fly.

Air Force leaders reaffirmed global attack as one of the service's core competencies in its new strategic vision, "Global Engagement: A Vision for the 21st Century Air Force." The

other Air Force core competencies are air and space superiority, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority and agile combat support.

One aspect of global attack is the ability of the Air Force to use stateside bases and forces to attack

anywhere. In the Cold War, Air Force long-range bombers and, later intercontinental ballistic missiles, shouldered the nation's first priority of deterring nuclear war.

"Although nuclear weapons no longer play as central a role in America's national security strategy as they did during the Cold War, we recognize the dangers posed by the efforts of rogue states and others to acquire

them," said Secretary of the Air Force Sheila E. Widnall.

She said the Air Force will sustain its work in the nuclear area and strengthen its response to the growing risk of proliferation. Meanwhile, she said, the Air Force will use global attack as the basis to maintain the bomber and land-based ballistic missile legs

of the triad even as it prepares for any force reductions.

The Air Force will also keep its commitment through global attack to support nuclear requirements of theater commanders, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman. "The Air

Force is absolutely determined to maintain its record of excellence as the custodian of nuclear weapons by ensuring the safe and secure operation of those weapons."

In addition, the general emphasized that long-range attack forces have increased their conventional abilities and are able to "provide versatile, responsive combat power able to intervene decisively when necessary.

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*Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman
Air Force Chief of Staff*

"The ability of the Air Force to engage globally, using both lethal and non-lethal means, is vital to today's national security strategy of engagement and enlargement," he stated.

The other aspect of global attack is providing expeditionary forces with sustained combat power. The Air Force has developed and demonstrated the concept of using rapidly deployable air expeditionary force from the United States. This expeditionary force, Fogleman said, can be tailored to meet the needs of the joint force commander, both for lethal and non-lethal applications and can launch and be ready to fight in less than three days.

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The Air Force is increasing the role of expeditionary forces to maintain its global engagement capability. But in the future, Fogleman said, "capabilities based in the continental United States will likely become the primary means for crisis response and power projection. At the same time, long-range air and space-based assets increasingly fill the requirements of the global attack core competency."



Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

ESC bazaar raises \$20,000

Customers check out the merchandise at one of the stalls during the RAF Lakenheath Enlisted Spouses Club bazaar. Several thousand shoppers attended the three-day bazaar and helped the club raise nearly \$20,000. Seventy percent of the money raised will be returned to the base and local community through charitable donations. Eighty-seven volunteers put in more than 2,600 hours during the bazaar.

March is Women's History Month



Margaret Sanger

Margaret Sanger was a nurse who took it upon herself to find practical methods of birth control that could be made available to any woman. She found herself at odds with government and organized religion, both of which would battle her furiously for years as she sought to make birth control a fundamental human right. American women possess this right today due in great measure to her valiant and incessant efforts.